Nabb Research Center
Salisbury University
Since 1982
For Delmarva History and Culture
We're History...Without You!

Shoreline

Vol. 14, Issue 7, July 2007

The Nabb Board

Gary V. Outten, Chair
Pocomoke, MD

Margaret Genvert, Vice-chair
Salisbury, MD

Ray Thompson, Secretary
Salisbury, MD

Carolyn Adkins
Mardela Springs, MD

E. Niel Carey
Ellicott City, MD

Richard Carter
Millsboro, DE

Del. D. Page Elmore
Salisbury, MD

Charles Emery
North East, MD

Thomas H. Fooks V
Wilmington, DE

Harry Holcomb III
Franktown, VA

Lenore Huffer
Berlin, MD

Joe Moore
Berlin, MD

L. Paul Morris Jr.
Salisbury, MD

Eleanor Mulligan
Salisbury, MD

Kathryn Niskanen
Washington, DC

Louis Parsons III
Ocean City, MD

Maarten Pereboom
Salisbury, MD

Melanie Perreault
Salisbury, MD

Marion Phillips
Salisbury, MD

Sandra Quillin
Ocean City, MD

Elizabeth Ragan
Salisbury, MD

Diane Savage
Berlin, MD

Mike Scott
Salisbury, MD

Sarah Showell
Salisbury, MD

Clara Small
Salisbury, MD

Patricia Taylor
Salisbury, MD

Charles Thornton Sr.
Burkittsville, MD

Andrea Ullrich
Heathsville, VA

Robert Withey
Cape Coral, FL

Gordon Wood Sr.
Ocean View, DE

Emeritus:
John Jacob
Seaford, DE

In Their Own Words: 18th Century Native American Language

By Virginia R. Busby, U.S. Army Environmental Command

While John Smith failed to navigate the Choptank River and encounter the Native American people residing along its banks during his 1608 explorations of the Eastern Shore, 180 years later another prominent Virginian, Thomas Jefferson, succeeded in procuring an amazing fragment of their language through his nation-wide request for Anglo-American residents to visit Native American settlements in their areas to record a selection of Indian vocabulary according to his standardized word list.

In 1792, William Vans Murray visited *Ama namp quun* (Locust Neck Indian Town) near Cambridge, MD, to elicit vocabulary words. Locust Neck was the last vestige of the formerly 9,000-acre Choptank Indian Reservation, where around only nine people still lived. At Locust Neck, Murray collected over 250 words from Mrs. Mulberry, the wife of the deceased chief. This language fragment represents the Algonquian language as spoken by all Eastern Shore native peoples including the Nanticoke Indians, close relatives of the Choptank Indians.

Many types of evidence can be used to explore the lives of people in the past. Archaeology, oral history, historic documentary research, and linguistic information all tell part of the story. Language can provide clues into the material existence of people—what they ate, the tools they used, what their landscape looked like. Language can also provide clues into how people related to each other, to the world and to indicate something about their values. Below are some words from the vocabulary that include terms for places, colors, seasons, family, social activities, plants and animals.

Note: Dashes are used to indicate syllable breaks; whereas, exclamation points are used to indicate forceful enunciation of the syllable.

PLACES

Ama namp quun Locust Neck Indian Town
Matt appenenNanticoke Indian Town (presumably Chicone)

COLORS

waap-pau-u ..... white
oaskag-u ..... black
puh-squai-loau ..... blue
psquai-u ..... red
wee-sa-way-u ..... yellow
ah!skaah-tuck-qui-a ..... green

SEASONS

pooponu ..... winter
see-qui-o ..... spring
mashaquapau-u ..... summer
wee-saw-panu ..... autumn

FAMILY TERMS

nicque ..... my mother
nowoze ..... my father
auwauntet ..... child
hunt tawn ..... daughter
nucks-quah ..... my son
nimpz ..... older sister
neighsum ..... younger sister
ne-ee-mat ..... my brother
nee-eeswah!.wife or "my woman"
nups-soh!soh! ..... my husband
acquahique ..... woman
wohacki ..... man
pukquah ..... girl
wahocki-a-wauntit ..... boy

SOCIALLY-RELATED WORDS

ne kitt-o-was ..... speak
nuck-und-oh ..... sing
e-kitt-co ..... falsehood
ko-o-lam ..... truth
cuip-shee-in quo ..... foolish
wee-ee ..... good
mattitt ..... bad
ne man-nin-now ..... to hate
n!wummoi ..... to love
lapp!-poi o-wees ..... religion
ne quee quaaawk ..... life
ungue-lack ..... death

PLANTS

petuicque ..... tree
pamp tuck-kiosk ..... woods
kla-one-nahq ..... locust tree
whie-in-quaque ..... mulberry tree
wee-seek-e-mintz ..... oak tree
mee-eents ..... berries
munck-qui-suck ..... blackberry
cawl-na-woop ..... corn
oh-pucque ..... tobacco
pah!scho-hook-quick ..... snakeroot

ANIMALS

ah!shao-pawn-top ..... eagle
anasup ..... raccoon
ash quoke ..... snake
attque ..... deer
i-e-ape ..... buck
kaw-sheh! ..... oysters
nataque ..... beaver
pah! quun ..... turkey
tah!quah ..... crab
wammass ..... fish
weak-keh! ..... muskrat

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6861
410-543-6312
E-mail: rcdhac@salisbury.edu

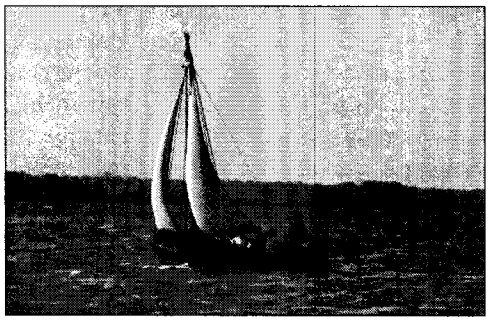
non-profit org.
U. S. postage
PAID
Salisbury, Maryland
permit no. 65

"We're History...Without You"

Mapping Vienna Using GIS

On June 2, the *Sultana*, a 30-foot replica of the shallop used by Captain John Smith in 1608 to explore the Chesapeake Bay, stopped off at Vienna, MD, as part of its voyage celebrating the 400th anniversary of Jamestown. This was a fitting tribute for the town as it winds down its own 300th anniversary celebration. In preparation for these events, the town of Vienna inquired the services of Dr. Michael S. Scott, geography professor at Salisbury University, to conduct a study on the town in relation to certain historical events. In the past, Scott worked with the Nabb Research Center on its "American Origins" project. A component of that project involved the digitalization of the 1877 Atlas and overlaying it onto a present-day map with a searchable database. This would be the type of work used on the Vienna project as well.

In conjunction with the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) at Salisbury University, Scott began work on the project in the summer of 2004. Titled "A Digital Historical Geography of Vienna, Maryland: The Digitalization of John Smith's 1612 Map of the Chesapeake Bay and Thomas Ennals' 1706 of 'Vienna Towne,'" the project had a two-fold purpose. First, determine the approximate location of the town on the Smith map in proximity to features indicated on the map. Second, compare the current layout of the town with the original layout contained in the Ennals' plat. Both maps had been converted from a paper format into a digital format. Using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology, the conversion will allow these maps to overlay onto other data layers, such as a map containing present-day features like roads and structures.



Shallop under full-sail off Vienna June 2, 2007. (photo by Pat Taylor)

In each case, both maps presented problems for the researchers. The John Smith map included measurement errors, changes in shoreline and exaggeration in river courses while the Thomas Ennals' map lacked sufficient landmarks. The final report and conclusions, along with maps created by the project, can be found at www.esrgc.org/smith.htm. To learn more about ESRGC and other local projects by the organization, visit www.esrgc.org.

Reminder

By now, if you have not received our large scholarly June edition of *Shoreline*, this means our records indicate your membership has expired. In order to continue your membership and receive the June *Shoreline* as well as future monthly editions of our monthly news-sheets, please forward your membership renewal to us. A donation of $30 continues your membership through 2007. Your support is greatly appreciated.